

Time to Think

Open University Journeys in British and Irish prisons during the years of conflict, 1972-2000

Oral History interview clip transcript

Name of Interviewee: **Paddy**
Interviewed by: **Jenny Meegan**
Date of interview: **01/06/2011**

Important

Every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of this transcript, however no transcript is an exact translation of the spoken word, and this document is intended to be a guide to the original recording, not replace it.

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Clip title: Paulo Freire, a new approach to education

Duration: 00:01:11

Clip start point in full interview: 00:04:59

Clip end point in full interview: 00:06:09

Interview identifier: 027_S_02

Description: Paddy, an Open University graduate, describes the contrast between his school experiences and discovering the Paulo Freire approach to education in the Republican Wings of the H Blocks in the 1980s, yet feeling daunted at the idea of starting Open University study.

Transcript:

My experience of school wasn't a particularly positive one, so it was this whole new experience of education, the Paulo Freire type of idea whereby it wasn't a bank but you absorbed the education. It wasn't that someone was there just to fill up an empty vessel, in a sense, you were participating in your own education base within the Wing. That was part of it and then whenever I was in, for I suppose, six months or so and doing different things, it was coming round to that period where people were asking about taking names for different courses. One of the things which was very much being promoted was the idea about The OU, and I knew a few people on the Wing at that stage who had been in and come through the Blanket Protest. They had been in for quite a while, and they were actually doing the OU at that stage. But even though they were on the Wing doing the OU, and even though my ideas of education were changing, the idea of ever, ever attempting the OU, was just again to me an alien thing you just would never ever think of doing. I didn't think I would have had the capabilities to do it.